Stations" spread over the Indian Railway network. On Board cleaning and Housekeeping is presently being carried out in few prestigious trains and the scheme is proposed to be extended to other important long distance trains.

Introduction of new trains

2109. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many proposals for introduction of new trains are pending with his Ministry;

(b) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Rajasthan made certain proposals;

(c) if so, what are the details of those proposals; and

(d) what is the criterion for introduction of new trains, and on what grounds the proposals received from the State of Rajasthan are not being accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) 29 pairs of new trains announced in Rail Budgets are still to be introduced.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. No such proposal has been received from Government of Rajasthan. However, representations are received from people's representatives of Rajasthan, *inter alia*, regarding introduction of trains. These are examined and action as found feasible and justified is taken.

(d) New train services are introduced subject to traffic justification, availability of resources, operational feasibility etc. Introduction of new trains is an ongoing exercise over Indian Railways and new train services are gradually provided irrespective of geographical boundaries every year. 6 pairs of new trains services announced in Railway Budget 2007-08 will serve Rajasthan.

New proposals for gauge conversion in Rajasthan

2110. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many new proposals for gauge conversion of Rajasthan State have been included in the Rail Budget 2005-06 for conducting survey work;

(b) what is the time-frame fixed up by his Ministry for the survey of above gauge conversion works; and

(c) what is the criteria for sanctioning these new gauge conversion works after completion of survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) One.

(b) March, 2008.

(c) The policy adopted for taking up gauge conversion to carry out the conversion of lines at least cost yet providing a standard of service not lower than what the rail users were getting on the Metre Gauge covering the following areas:

(i) To take up conversion of lines to develop alternative broad gauge (BG) routes obviating the need for doubling existing BG lines on these routes,

(ii) To establish new BG links between stations connected by other BG lines.

(iii) To establish BG connection to ports, industrial centres and locations having potential for growth.

(iv) To take up conversion of lines required on strategic considerations.

(v) To minimize transshipment and to improve wagons turn around by avoiding delays at transshipment points.

Many new line and gauge conversion projects have been taken up on socio-economic considerations for development of backward, hilly, remote and under developed areas.

Connecting Lumbini by train

2111. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by his Ministry to connect Lumbini, the Birth Place of Lord Buddha by train;

(b) what action taken by his Ministry on letter dated 18th May, 2006 from M..P: Rajya Sabha; and

(c) whether the Extemal Affairs Ministry had called for the comments of his Ministry on the above matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Lumbini is in Nepal and not connected by Indian Railway system.. Five surveys which have been conducted on behalf of Ministry of External Affairs, to have rail connectivity on bordering towns of Indo-Nepal border do not cover Lumbini. The matter has been referred to Ministry of External Affairs for their comments.

Captive power plant

2112. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN:
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the average annual requirement of electricity of the Railways;